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SENATE HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

EXHIBIT NO. 8

DATE: 1/29/08

BILL NO. SB 237

January 27th, 2009

TO: Members of the Senate Highways and Transportation Committee

FROM: Carl Peil, volunteer advocate for AARP Montana

RE: SB 237, Primary seatbelt enforcement for motor vehicle occupants

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Carl Peil and I'm a volunteer advocate for AARP Montana – a non-profit non-partisan organization of 165,000 members in this state. AARP Montana strongly believes in making our roads and highways as safe as possible, and it is time Montana followed national guidelines to strengthen our seatbelt laws.

I am currently a district coordinator of AARP Montana's Driver Safety Program which trains over 4000 older drivers a year on aspects of driving safely. Also, I worked for years in highway design and was the liaison between the Department of Transportation and the criminal justice system testifying on matters of highway safety. From this, I know that highway safety requires a combination of Engineering, Education and Enforcement. We all know and agree that seatbelts are great practice, and anything that may lead to fewer serious injuries or more lives being saved is a good law. Thank you and we urge a do pass on Senate Bill 237.